

by the California Academy of Sciences, showing men actively engaged on the surface of the moon. . . .

"The three prime essentials for supporting life—air, water and food—are entirely absent from the moon. A day on the moon has the duration of nearly a month of earthdays. During the two weeks' period of sunshine at a given spot, the temperature of the moon's surface becomes hotter than that of boiling water on the surface of the earth and the unfiltered sunshine includes lethal ultra-violet and cosmic rays. During the two weeks of darkness the moon's surface becomes colder than that of the earth's South Pole—and no chance to build a fire. . . .

"During the period of darkness the body of the 'space-man' would be frozen solid. Then during the period of sunshine the remains would be desiccated to a mummy. It would be a very perfect mummy, preserved without micro-organisms to cause putrefaction. It would make a fine museum specimen if there were any museum to put it in or any humans to look at it.

"Dr. Miller, don't you think it is incumbent on the California Academy of Sciences to give the same publicity to the simple, known facts regarding the moon that has been given to the pure fiction of an unscientific imagination?"

(We thank Dr. Vreeland for his frank interest. We feel we should remind him, however, that the Academy has devoted a total of six months of Planetarium shows to the "simple, known facts regarding the moon" since Morrison Planetarium was opened in 1952 and next month's show, "Marvels of the Moon," from April 2 to May 4, will make it seven.—EDITOR.)

#### GIFT INCLUDES RARE EGG

DR. ROBERT T. ORR, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the Academy, reports his department recently received a gift of birdskins and eggs in which was included a rarely-seen specimen, the egg of a Black Swift.

J. P. Strohbeen presented the gift for B. C. Vrooman of Santa Cruz, son of the late A. G. Vrooman, who was the first—on June 16, 1901—to find the nest of the Black Swift.

Dr. Orr said the egg was most welcome because, while Black Swifts are quite commonly seen, their nests and eggs are not.

#### NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy last month are:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Miss Lois M. Bastian  
Mr. Joseph Chambers, Jr.  
Mrs. Edward A. Colman  
Mr. L. H. Edison  
Mrs. Marie E. Frazer  
Mr. Merle Forster  
Mr. John Galvin  
Mr. William Greuner  
Mr. Charles Grunsky  
Mr. Robert N. Hackney

Mr. Bruce H. Henderson  
Mr. Stewart Kittinger  
Miss Marie G. Lettieri  
Mr. Herbert C. McCall  
Mr. Floyd A. Oryall, Jr.  
Miss Elizabeth Randall  
Dr. Robert S. Tuttle  
Mr. Harvey B. Woodworth

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. C. Edward Hough  
Mr. Norman Leonard

Dr. Phillip Shapiro  
Mr. George B. White

##### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Automobile Club of Southern  
California

##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Jim Catania  
Ted Hermesen  
Rich Lacer  
Karl Switak

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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ANDROSACE—A WILDFLOWER OF THE ARCTIC

—Photo by Dr. G. D. Hanna

(See Page 2)

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## March Announcement

THE REGULAR MARCH MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, March 19, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, Curator of the Academy's Geology Department, and Mrs. Hanna will present:

### "AN ARCTIC YEAR"

Nearly four years ago, Dr. Hanna went to Point Barrow, Alaska, to the Arctic Research Laboratory and undertook geological investigations into the nature of the formations onshore and offshore in the vicinity of Point Barrow.

The following year, in 1955, Dr. Hanna returned to the Laboratory as its director and Mrs. Hanna accompanied him to aid in his investigations and to do illustrations of the native plants and animals in the area.

In October, 1956, the Hannas again went to Point Barrow—by automobile from San Francisco to Fairbanks and then on to Point Barrow by air—where Dr. Hanna continued his geological studies and Mrs. Hanna continued her illustrating as well as helping with various projects at the Laboratory. This trip kept them in the Arctic circle locale nearly a year: they returned to the Academy in September, 1957.

It is the story of this Arctic year the Hannas will present—in lecture and many Kodachrome slides—in their account of "An Arctic Year."

During their year at the Laboratory, the Hannas took scores of colored slides; of native birds and animals, of interesting rock and ice formations and of the terrain around Point Barrow.

But the greater portion of their slides were used to record the many species of Alaskan plants and especially the Alpine-like wildflowers which grow in profusion at Point Barrow. (See cover photo.)

These delicate-looking but hardy botanical specimens will provide the pictorial highlight of the Hannas' lecture which Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

### DRAKE EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY

PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS, charts, maps, artifacts and other items make up an exhibit on "Drake in California" which is now on display in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature at the Academy.

Prepared in cooperation with the Drake Navigators Guild, the exhibit provides fascinating physical evidence of Sir Francis Drake's 36-day encampment in the land he called Nova Albion. The exhibit will remain on display until sometime in April.

It is timed to coincide with an article on Drake's California landing which appears in the current *Pacific Discovery* and which was authored by Chester W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, U. S. N.

## PD EDITOR NOW "DOWN UNDER"

AUSTRALIA is the current location of *Pacific Discovery's* Editor Don Greame Kelley, who is traveling over much of the South Pacific—with the aid of a Guggenheim Fellowship—interviewing the scientists of that area.

In his latest message to the Academy, Kelley had just arrived in Australia and was about to begin interviewing the scientists of that country.

Previously, Kelley visited Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines, among other stops. His first report to the magazine appears in the current March-April issue. He is expected back at the Academy in late April or early May.

### ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

THE MARCH ASTRONOMY section meeting will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, March 19, in the Student Lecture Room of the Hall of Sciences, according to Charles F. Hagar, Assistant Curator of Astronomy, who will conduct the meeting.

The Bell Telephone Company's film on weather, "The Unchained Goddess," which was recently shown on television, will be presented at the meeting, Hagar said.

### TWO BOTANICAL PUBLICATIONS DUE SOON

JOHN THOMAS HOWELL, Curator of the Academy's Botany Department, said recently the "List of San Francisco Flora" which he, Peter Raven and Peter Rubtsoff have been preparing for several months, is now in press and is expected out in mid-spring.

The work is being published by the University of San Francisco in the *Wasmann Journal of Biology*.

Another publication, prepared by two members of the Botany Department, is expected to be published about the time this NEWS LETTER is mailed. It is "Guide List to Plants in the Strybing Arboretum" by Eric Walther and Elizabeth McClintock. Dr. McClintock is Assistant Curator of the Botany Department and President of the Strybing Arboretum Society, which is publishing the list. Walther is a Research Associate in the department and former director of the Arboretum.

The guide list will be published in two editions, a popular, paperback edition and a limited, bound version.

### MAN ON THE MOON—HALLUCINATION?

THE FEBRUARY NEWS LETTER, members will recall, featured a cover photograph of one of the paintings of Chesley Bonestell, depicting a rocket taking off from the surface of the moon. Inside was a short account of the Bonestell paintings exhibited by the Academy in February.

The exhibit drew much interest and much comment, most of it favorable. However, one Academy member, Dr. Frederick K. Vreeland of Mill Valley, expressed in no uncertain verbal terms his feelings about the moon painting that adorned his NEWS LETTER.

In a letter to Dr. Robert C. Miller, Academy Director, member Vreeland wrote, in part:

"I have nothing to say about any other work of the painter in question. My comments are directed to the hallucination that was published and distributed